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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## Mall Santa to create great experience

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall and Cherry Hill Programs (CHP), the industry leader in experiential photography, operating holiday experiences in over 800 venues across the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico during the Christmas and Easter seasons, today announced a marketing partnership to launch this new virtual technology, Create Holiday Magic, tailored specifically around the current COVID-19 pandemic, to help families keep their holiday traditions alive.

SANTA, 15

## Spots open for 'Learning Support Pods'

HOLYOKE – HPS has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club, Homework House, OneHolyoke, Girls Inc. and the YMCA to offer Learning Support Pods for students in grades K-8. Learning Support Pods provide supervision and support with remote learning, especially for students for whom remote learning is least likely to be effective or for families whose parents are essential workers. Students will still be taught by HPS

LEARNING, 15

## Library board positions available

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Library is seeking to fill 3 (three) positions on their Board of Directors as City Representatives. If you are interested in applying, please send a letter of interest and resume to: mayor-soffice@holyokey.org.

The deadline for applications is December 1, 2020.

For more information please contact the Mayor's Office at (413) 322-5510.

## Crisis teaching develops into remote learning

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Although Holyoke Schools are running remotely, the buildings are being used so teachers can do their job appropriately. Staff and teachers are working hard to make schoolwork during this time.

Principal Amy Burke explains that the biggest change is how quiet the building is, and that not having kids in school makes day-to-day activities different. Though when Burke walks the halls she can hear teachers speaking in their classrooms, and it brings back some normalcy. She now spends her work day in her office popping into different classrooms through Zoom, she watches the classes and she's able to see the students there.

The majority of teachers are in the building and have

the advantage they didn't have in March.

"Back in March we were in crisis mode, it wasn't online teaching; it was crisis teaching," Burke said. "Our staff has really stepped up and I'm confident to say it's true online teaching and remote learning."

Metcalf serves Pre-K to sixth grade and is a dual language school, the staff had to structure their days accordingly to make teaching dual languages online worked. Students spend half their day learning in English and half their day learning in Spanish, and by the time they leave the school they will be bilingual and more cultural.

Teachers haven't had to change their curriculums too much, but they have had to find ways to make online learning interactive and

See TEACHING, page 12

## Duffy hosts town hall ahead of taking office

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@gmail.com



Patricia Duffy

HOLYOKE – State Representative-elect Patricia Duffy held a Virtual Town Hall with special guests, the Women Legislators of the Pioneer Valley Delegation. The event allowed for people to talk about Duffy and ask her questions for her upcoming State Rep. position.

People could register to join the meeting on Zoom, and the Zoom meeting was live stream to Duffy's State Rep. Facebook page. The event was led by Ray Drewnowski, and guest speakers included Representative Mindy Domb, Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, and Representative Natalie Bias.

"Holyoke is so fortunate to have Pat as their state rep. elect, I actually look to her for advice and knowledge about the state house, and have done

that since I've been there," Domb said. "So I'm not sure I'm in a position to give advice, but what I can say is I'm so excited about welcoming you [Duffy] to the state house and to be able to work with you in that capacity."

Domb continues to say she and Duffy will have more opportunities to work together and focus their work and intentions now that they'll both be representatives.

Duffy has worked with Domb and Sabadosa on different things throughout the years and she understands that her new position will only give her more opportunities to work together with these women. Duffy and the other state reps. have many common thoughts and views on issues presented to them, and when they don't agree they still give a united

See DUFFY page 12

## FINAL ACTION FOR BOYS SOCCER



One of the final contests of the fall season was a Holyoke soccer game against Northampton High School on Oct. 21. The Knights battled to a 2-2 tie with the Blue Devils. More photos are on page 9.

Photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Oversight override

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke City Council voted to override yet another veto from Mayor Alex Morse that places city council oversight of overtime line item transfers.

"I think its really important that we have oversight at this time," said Councilor Michael Sullivan. "We do get letters from department heads that we are micromanaging. This is our chance to be able to take a good look at this."

The council voted 11-1 in favor of the ordinance only for Morse to veto it, stating he believed it was against the city charter.

The council obtained a legal opinion regarding the ordinance, which advised the council that there was nothing wrong with council oversight and that it was within the scope the council works in. The order applies to overtime transfers within all city departments.

Micromanagement was a term brought up throughout the override discussion.

Ward 3 Councilor David Bartley he believes the oversight is needed.



# Holyoke Community College hosting online play

HOLYOKE – The characters in “Fatal Fisticuffs,” an original, live-streaming online play from Holyoke Community College, inhabit a bleak, degraded world where flowers no longer grow.

They live alone in boxes, eat artificial food from plastic tubes, and may venture out once a year during an event known as The Opening.

The rest of the time, their interactions are all virtual, coming in the form of holograms, online chats and videogames. That includes Fatal Fisticuffs, the Mortal Kombat-style eSports competition that provides both a literal and metaphorical battlefield for the main character, Clayton Day, played by HCC student Miguel Perez of Holyoke.

“I think people can imagine that this is happening in a world that’s forced into quarantine because of environmental issues or potentially because of disease,” said the director, HCC theater professor Tim Cochran. “It’s a world where people have been driven to this fighting game and are feeling more and more disconnected from each other. There’s a thread of loneliness through the whole play, and Clay is really just looking for authentic connection.”

The HCC Theater Department’s live-streaming production of “Fatal Fisticuffs” debuts Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m. It will be performed again on Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21, also at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee at 10 a.m. on Sat., Nov. 21. The Friday night performance will be ASL interpreted.

The show is free and open to all. It can be viewed on Twitch TV through the website of streaming coach and HCC

theater alumnus Cory Missildine at [twitch.tv/missildineonline](https://twitch.tv/missildineonline).

The story follows Clay as he encounters Boreas Knight (played by HCC alumnus Matt Haughten), the world’s greatest Fatal Fisticuffs player. Knight becomes a mentor to the reluctant Clay, and their relationship threatens a budding romance between Clay and his girlfriend, River, played by HCC alumna Elaine Stoneham.

Though it might seem so, “Fatal Fisticuffs” was not initially written to be performed online. Cochran, Missildine, and playwright Tom Roché, also an HCC alumnus, conceived of the play as a traditional stage show that would also be streamed online and allow for some virtual audience participation.

But in March, COVID-19 shut down the campus and the theater world. HCC cancelled its spring 2020 production of Antigone. Cochran didn’t want that to happen to “Fatal Fisticuffs.”

“One of the first messages I sent to Tom was, we gotta rethink,” Cochran recalled. “Obviously, we couldn’t do it the way it was written.”

Since then, Cochran said, Roché, an award-winning writer of short films and sketch comedy, has taken the play through at least five major transitions.

“Plays take a long time to develop,” said Cochran. “It took him a little while and then all of a sudden he got this idea about how to take the story he had created and remimagining it in a pandemic world, and it really brought the whole show together. The play became more than a story about a video game.

See PLAY, page 15



Director Tim Cochran, right, and fight choreographer and alumni-actor Mike Pray rehearse a scene from Fatal Fisticuffs in front of a green screen on the stage of HCC’s Leslie Phillips Theater. Submitted photos



Director Tim Cochran, left, and streaming coach Cory Missildine, right, record student-actor Julio Colon as he performs fight sequences for the HCC Theater Department’s fall 2020 production, Fatal Fisticuffs.

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# Outgoing representative Vega joining city hall

HOLYOKE – On Nov. 12, Mayor Alex B. Morse announced the resignation of Marcos Marrero as Director of the City’s Office of Planning & Economic Development (OPED). Marcos’ departure comes after more than eight years at the helm of the City’s development strategies. His last day with the City will be Friday, January 22, 2021 to provide an orderly transition for the incoming Director.

“My service to the City of Holyoke has been the most humbling honor entrusted to me during my entire career. Being appointed OPED Director in 2012 has been the joy and experience of a lifetime” said outgoing OPED Director Marcos Marrero. “However, at this time I am looking forward to a much needed break. I will use the coming months to center myself, spend more time with my wife and young kids, and explore my next career opportunities. I cannot do these things well while occupying my position with the City during this critical time for Holyoke.”

Mr. Marrero was appointed in the spring of 2012 to the leadership role, propelling the strategies for Holyoke’s economic transformation since then. His tenure has been highlighted by the creation of Massachusetts’ largest and most ambitious urban renewal plan, the planning and execution of public and private projects in the hundreds of millions of dollars, the steepest decline

in the City’s unemployment rate, the largest housing construction and rehab pipeline in Holyoke’s modern history, the creation of the City’s first entrepreneurship program and most recently the start of a cannabis business cluster that’s leading to an investment and hiring boom. He was also active in the Commonwealth’s economic development policy, working with state agencies in program formulation and implementation, and was appointed by Governor Baker to his Economic Development Planning Council twice.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better partner over the last nine years,” said Mayor Alex Morse. “The unprecedented progress we have made in our city would not have been realized without Marcos’s expertise, vision, and leadership. Upon appointing Marcos in 2012, he quickly made Holyoke his home and has become an integral part of our community. I am so proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish together. Marcos leaves behind a legacy that will no doubt be remembered as a critical turning point in our city’s revitalization. I look forward to his friendship and counsel for years to come, and wish him nothing but happiness and success moving forward.”

“I am enthusiastic for what may



Aaron Vega

lie ahead for me, and equally energized by my incoming successor at the helm of Planning & Economic Development. Knowing that OPED’s mission and staff are in good hands makes it easy for me to be at peace with my decision to step aside” added Marcos Marrero.

Mayor Morse also announced the appointment of OPED’s new Director, Holyoke’s outgoing State Representative Aaron Vega. Mr. Vega comes with deep experience in the City’s economic development trajectory and projects. He served as City Councilor for Holyoke from 2010-2014, where he chaired the Redevelopment Committee as the legislative counterpart to OPED’s work. As state representative from 2013-2020, he worked hand-in-hand with the City Administration on legislative priorities that were included in two landmark Economic Development bills, land transactions and innovative programming such as the Holyoke-specific liquor license program, and was a member of the legislature’s Joint Committee on Cannabis.

“I am excited for this opportunity to build on the work of the past several years along with the OPED team” said incoming Director Aaron Vega. “From ushering in Holyoke’s Urban Renewal Plan as a City Councilor at Large, to the work I have focused on as State

Representative for the past 8 years, I believe I can bring valuable experience and knowledge to advance our city’s economic vision and potential. I am excited to work with our City Council, our City departments, the business community and all stakeholders to expand economic opportunity here in Holyoke.”

Born in South Holyoke, Aaron is a graduate of Keene State College. Prior to his work in the public sector Aaron has been an entrepreneur in the creative economy sector, as documentary film editor for nearly 15 years and as owner/operator of VegaYoga here in the city with his wife Debra.

“I’m excited to welcome Aaron to City Hall in this new capacity. Aaron steps into this role at a critical time for our city, and I can’t think of anyone more prepared and ready to continue the work before us. Upon my taking office in January 2012, Aaron was key in advancing the city’s Urban Renewal Plan in his capacity as Chair of the City Council’s Development Committee. Since then, in his role as our city’s State Representative, Aaron has been a vital partner and voice at the state level to help advance our city’s development efforts. His experience at the local and state level, coupled with his relationships with key stakeholders will no doubt assist the city moving forward.”

Aaron Vega’s first official day as Director will be Monday, January 25, 2021.

## Grant application deadline extended to Monday, Dec. 1

AGAWAM – With a mandate to distribute state monies via a grants process, the Agawam Cultural Council is seeking grant requests from local community-oriented programs in arts, humanities and sciences in need of funding. The Agawam Cultural Council FY2021 grant season started Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020 and has been extended to Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 as the postmark deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that may support or provide cultural activities for the Agawam community. According to Council spokesperson Bob Kadis, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Agawam -- including exhibits, festivals, short-term artist residencies or performances in the schools, workshops, lectures or historical interpretation.

Notably, the Council also encourages funding requests from schools and youth groups to cover ticket and transportation costs for field trips for school-age children.

For more information, Local Guidelines and FAQ’s can be found at this site:

<http://www.mass-culture.org/Agawam> by clicking on the “Council Priorities” tab.

Information about the ACC’s Grants program can also be found on the ACC’s own website at: [agawamcc.org](http://agawamcc.org).

The FY2021 allocation amount has not been determined as of this writing. But what we do know there is \$3,300 of unencumbered funds left over from the FY2020 grant season. The MCC FY2021 allocation plus the unencumbered funds will make up the total grant amount for FY2021. The total grant amount will be posted on our website when we know it. Note, the MCC FY2020 allocation was \$17,200.00 and when added to the FY2019 \$615.00 unencumbered funds made for an available total grant amount of \$17,815.00 for FY2020.

If you have questions about the online application process, you may contact the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s Lisa Simmons at 617-858-2707 or at [lisa.simmons@state.ma.us](mailto:lisa.simmons@state.ma.us) -- or ACC chair Bob Kadis, at 413-789-4814 or at [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net).

An online application process will become available Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020. The Agawam Cultural Council will not accept paper applications. To apply for a grant, please visit: <http://www.mass-culture.org/Agawam> and click “Apply Now.”

## MCAS planned for Class of 2021

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools announced passing the mathematics and English Language Arts MCAS exams remain graduation requirements for the classes of 2021 and 2022. The exams must be taken in person, on campus and will be computer-based. All students in the Class of 2022 (current in grade 11 will take 2 exams, ELA and Math. Students in the Class of 2021 (currently in grade 12) who have not yet taken or passed an MCAS exam required for graduation, will only take the exam they need to pass. Students in grade 12

who are required to take any part of the MCAS exams will be notified. Testing Dates are January 14, 2021 to February 5, 2021.

The schools are working on a schedule that takes into account the health and safety of students and staff, and the accommodations and supports we need to put in place to ensure students are as successful on these exams as possible. We will have another update for you the week we return from the Thanksgiving holiday. Check the Holyoke Public Schools website for more information.

## COVID-19 testing spot changed locations at HCC

HOLYOKE – Starting Friday, Nov. 6, the location of free drive-through COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College will shift to parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building.

The change is being made to prepare for the cold weather months, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Hours and days of operation will not change. Testing will continue at least through the end of December.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Previously, testing was conducted in parking lot M near the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation.

Drivers are now being asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, then turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to

manage the flow of traffic.

A map with the new traffic pattern and testing site location is posted on the Holyoke Board of Health website: <https://www.holyoke.org/hcc-covid-testing-site-to-change/>.

The HCC testing site is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Information about closing due to inclement weather can be found on the Holyoke Board of Health website.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary.

Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

## Engineering series concludes next week

HOLYOKE – Public libraries and members of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) from across the country are participating in an exciting virtual engineering experience this November called Dream, Build, and Create. It is an introduction to engineers and engineering for people of all ages, especially families and children.

This inspirational program offers people a free film screening of the award-winning documentary Dream Big: Engineering Our World. The series is set to conclude on Nov. 24.

Here are the links and passcodes to view the English, Spanish, and Closed-Captioned versions of Dream Big: Engineering Our World for free on select dates. November 24:

English: <https://vimeo.com/463655567>. Password: dreambignov24

Closed Captioning available by

clicking the CC icon on the lower right.

Spanish: <https://vimeo.com/463459829>. La contraseña: dreambignov24

In addition to the film, ASCE is organizing several virtual panels in November where patrons can join live conversations with our Dream Teams of young, diverse engineers. Check below for these panel discussion dates.

Engineering Extravaganza on Tuesday, November 24, 4 p.m. EST at <https://youtu.be/RWXpG48xBIo>

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is partnering with the STAR Library Network (STAR Net) and its Project BUILD engineering program. Project BUILD is supported by the National Science Foundation.

Watch the film Dream Big: Engineering Our World online at any time on the specified date. The code is good for a 24-hour period.



# Holiday events set for Connecticut Trolley Museum

EAST WINDSOR, Conn. – The Connecticut Trolley Museum presents Holiday Fun with several events planned. These events include:

### Winterfest and the “Tunnel of Lights”

Winterfest 2020 and the “Tunnel of Lights” beginning Friday, November 27th. Winterfest will be held from 5PM until 9PM Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights from Nov 27th through Dec 20th. Additionally the Museum will be open from Dec 26th through Dec 30th. Winterfest and the “Tunnel of Lights” is celebrating its 42nd year as a family holiday tradition. Halls are decked both inside and outside with over 15,000 lights. Outside, closed trolley cars transport jolly guests down a tunnel of lights as they sing traditional Christmas Carols with their trolley car operators. For an open air view of the “Tunnel of Lights,” one open sleigh car is lit up entirely with holiday lights. Be sure to dress warm and bring blankets. Inside, the Visitor Center is a Winter Wonderland with multiple model train layouts and lights galore. Admission prices are \$15-\$20 per person and all ticket sales must be made in advance. Museum Members receive half off admission.

### Christmas Tree Trolley

Christmas Tree Trolley will held on



Holiday events are coming to the East Windsor Trolley.

Submitted photo

Saturday & Sunday November 28th & 29th. For that special authentic Christmas experience, travel by an antique trolley car to Skylark Place where you can choose a specialty selected pre-cut white spruce tree and bring it back with you on the trolley. Additionally, enjoy the Visitor Center which is decorated like a Winter Wonderland with multiple model train layouts and lights galore. CTM will be selling family/friends packages for this

program at a cost of \$150 for up to 6 family members/friends which includes the Christmas Tree. All ticket sales must be made in advance. Museum Members receive \$50 off this package.

### Storytime Trolley with Santa & Elf

A great program for our younger visitors. Storytime trolley with Santa & Elf will run on Saturday and Sunday Dec 12th & 13th. Visitors will enjoy a ride in a decorated vintage trolley car where

Santa will visit with each child (distantly). Also, while on board Santa’s elf will read a holiday story and each child will complete a holiday craft. Following the Trolley ride, Museum guests will head to the Visitors Center which has been transformed into a Winter Wonderland with multiple model train layouts & lights galore. Admission prices are \$25 per person and all ticket sales must be made in advance. Museum Members receive half off admission.

As many people know the Museum was hit hard along with other businesses from the Pandemic. The events CTM hold are fundraisers which are extremely important in supporting the museum. Also this year the Museum will be selling beautifully made Holiday Centerpieces to help make up for lost revenue due to the pandemic.

The Museum will be following the State of Connecticut Covid-19 guidelines including masks while visiting. All tickets must be made before visiting the Museum at [www.ct-trolley.org](http://www.ct-trolley.org)

The Connecticut Trolley Museum is located at 58 North Road (Rt. 140) and is 15 minutes north of Hartford and 15 minutes south of Springfield. For more information, please call our business office at 860-627-6540 or visit our website at [www.ct-trolley.org](http://www.ct-trolley.org).

# Big Y announces another 2-day break for employees

SPRINGFIELD – Big Y has announced that they will close all of their stores including Big

Y World Class Markets, Table & Vine and Fresh Acres specialty market on Thanksgiving Nov. 26 as well as Friday Nov. 27. Big Y Express Gas & Convenience locations will be closed on Thanksgiving Day as well.

To thank their thousands of employees for their continued hard work and tenacious efforts

throughout the challenges of being an essential service throughout the pandemic, Big Y has decided to close their markets to the public on Thanksgiving and on the day after (Friday) so their

employees can rest and spend more time with their families. In addition, the closure will allow time for extra cleaning, restocking and preparations for the remainder of the holiday season.

According to Richard D. Bossie, senior vice president of operations and customer experience, “We are humbled by the extraordinary work of our front line employees throughout this past year. Being able to close to the public for an extra day or two, helps them to relax and spend time with loved ones. It also gives us an opportunity to clean and restock. The resilience of our teams has been remarkable, and we are thrilled to be able to thank them with a well-deserved

break.”

Big Y closed for their last two-day period in April when they closed similarly on Easter Sunday and Monday in order to give their teams some much needed rest.

In addition to these days of rest for their employees, Big Y has provided thank you pay and now thank you bonuses for their front-line workers in recognition of their continued commitment to each other and to their customers.

All locations will re-open on Saturday Nov. 28 for their usual hours. More information can be found on their website at [bigy.com](http://bigy.com)

Big Y Foods, Inc. is one of the large-

est independently owned supermarket chains in New England. Big Y operates 84 locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut including 71 supermarkets, Fresh Acres Market, Table & Vine Fine Wines and Liquors and 11 Big Y Express gas and convenience locations with almost 12,000 employees. Big Y has been recognized by Forbes as a Best-in-State Employer in Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as 2018 Employer of Choice by the Employers Association of the Northeast. Founded in 1936 by brothers Paul and Gerald D’Amour, the store was named after an intersection in Chicopee, Massachusetts where two roads converge to form a “Y.”

# Wildlife program next Wistriahurst presentation

HOLYOKE – On Wednesday, November 18 at 2:00 p.m., Wistariahurst will host Birds and Wildlife of Massachusetts, presented by Patti Steinman of Mass Audubon. This live, virtual program is free and open to all, but pre-registration is required.

Massachusetts is home to a wide variety of birds, and wildlife, due to the diverse habitats we are blessed with. This presentation will focus on birds and provide an overview of many species that live in our state, and include more common winter residents that people can find at their feeders this winter. Along with bird feeders, we often find black bears these days. We will discuss best practices for keeping your home “bear free.” Additionally, Massachusetts has had a very successful “bald eagle reintroduction project” which will be discussed. The program will conclude with an overview of some of the wildlife found in our state.

This program has been specially designed to address the needs of area seniors, many of whom continue to be socially isolated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program

is supported through a Community Development Block Grant - COVID-19 Grant to address, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic that is administered through the Holyoke Office of Community Development and has been planned in consultation with the Holyoke Council on Aging. Additional support has been provided through NEH CARES Act funding granted by Mass Humanities.

To register for Birds and Wildlife of Massachusetts or any future programs, please visit [www.Wistariahurst.org](http://www.Wistariahurst.org) or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at [maginnise@holyokey.org](mailto:maginnise@holyokey.org). If you have an idea for a topic you’d like to be considered for a future Wistariahurst session, please contact [info@wistariahurst.org](mailto:info@wistariahurst.org).

Future virtual programs will focus on a diverse range of historical and cultural topics including programs on nature, art, history, travel, and social justice. Upcoming presentations are set to include invasive worms in New England, the labor movement and women’s organizing in local factories, and the history of Holyoke’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

# Better Business Bureau to award scholarships to veterans

WORCESTER – The Better Business Bureau of Central New England Consumer Education Foundation will award up to eight \$500 textbook scholarships to veterans and military service members attending area colleges. Last year’s scholarships were awarded to students attending Becker College, Mount Wachusett Community College, Springfield College, Quinsigamond Community College and Westfield State University.

To be eligible to enter for a \$500 textbook scholarship, students are asked to test their financial literacy with a savvy consumer quiz and subscribe to BBB of Central New England’s consumer newsletter. They must also be currently attending a college or university located in the BBB of Central New England service area of Central and Western Massachusetts and Northeastern Connecticut.

“These scholarships help veteran and military service members with an immediate need, covering a portion of their college costs,” said Nancy B. Cahalen, president and CEO of BBB of Central New England. “But more importantly, the application process encourages all applicants to develop the lifelong skills of financial literacy and scam prevention. We want to do our part to prevent veterans, service members, and their families from being targets for fraud.”

Funded in part by BBB Accredited Business dues and in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense Financial Readiness Campaign, the BBB’s Military Line program works to increase the level of financial literacy within military communities and reduce the number of military personnel who fall victim to predatory practices such as high interest auto loans, expensive insurance sales, risky real estate deals and work-from-home scams. Specific programs include financial readiness training, fraud and scam alerts, company and charity reviews, and dispute resolution services.

Deadline for submission is Friday, Nov. 20, 2020. Email [textbooks@cne.bbb.org](mailto:textbooks@cne.bbb.org) for the scholarship entry form and savvy consumer quiz.

### About BBB

For more than 100 years, the Better Business Bureau has been helping people find businesses, brands and charities they can trust. In 2019, people turned to BBB more than 183 million times for BBB Business Profiles on nearly 5.8 million businesses and Charity Reports on 11,000 charities, all available for free at [bbb.org](http://bbb.org). BBB of Central New England was founded in 1940 and serves 225 communities in Worcester, Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Berkshire counties, as well as parts of Middlesex County and seven towns in Northeastern Connecticut.

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# Receiver presents entry plan, seeks opinions from public

**HOLYOKE** – Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos addressed his Entry Plan in a letter to the community. He seeks feedback from stakeholders to refine it:

In an ordinary year, a new Superintendent arriving at a school district would present an Entry Plan to the community in the first 30-60 days, outlining steps and activities planned to become familiar with the community and understand key issues facing the district. But clearly, 2020 has proven to be anything but ordinary. Throughout the summer, Holyoke and communities across the country were deeply focused on if, when, and how to reopen schools. When I began my tenure on July 1, I knew there was no option to ease into the role. Rather, I had to “hit the ground running” and quickly lead the ongoing work of preparing for a new school year in the midst of a pandemic. I also knew that my Entry Plan could wait.

Despite the challenges that COVID-19 presented this summer and continues to present, I am in many ways grateful for the opportunity to begin serving as your Superintendent/Receiver in these

most unusual circumstances. The need to develop and implement comprehensive plans to ensure health and safety protocols and effective teaching and learning afforded me rare insights into nearly every function of the school district in a short time. Even now, as schools and central offices — in partnership with families, local officials, and the community — work diligently to craft and execute plans, I am learning a great deal about the people, systems, and priorities that fuel the operation of this school district.

After four months on the job, I am so encouraged and inspired by what I’ve already seen, heard, and experienced. I know that the staff of the Holyoke Public Schools care deeply about the future of this community. They understand the tremendous opportunity and responsibility we have to make a lasting difference — by giving our students the first-class education they all deserve.

Beginning my tenure during the pandemic also meant not having the oppor-



Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos

tunity to introduce myself to the community as thoroughly as I had hoped. With schools and other venues closed, and all of us practicing social distancing, there are far fewer chances to be out and about, meeting my new colleagues, speaking to parents, and learning my way around the city. This was not a summer of festivals, block parties, and parades, where I could have begun to discover all that this city has to offer. Despite those obstacles, I’ve been warmly welcomed to the school district and to Holyoke in different ways. I want to thank everyone — including Mayor Alex Morse and the Holyoke School Committee — who have reached out to offer their support and to wish me well as we embark on this exciting journey together.

With the school year now well underway — though still remotely for most of our students — I am pleased to present this Entry Plan. This document shares with the community:

Some of the ways that I have begun

to listen, learn, and understand since I was hired for the position, including conversations with community leaders, educators, parents, and students;

Upcoming opportunities for me to engage further with individuals and small groups of stakeholders, whether in person (socially distanced and wearing masks, of course) or virtually; and

Actions I’ve taken during my first four months to build a strong team and establish a solid foundation for improvement moving forward.

In short, this Entry Plan is designed to give me and the community a clearer picture of where we’ve been and where we are now, in order to solidify and accelerate our plans for where we go from here.

I am honored to serve as your Superintendent-Receiver, and I look forward to the progress we will continue to make together to ensure Excellence in Holyoke.

The entry plan can be found at [https://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Dr.-Vazquez-Entry-Plan-Holyoke-Public-Schools\\_11.12.2020.pdf](https://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Dr.-Vazquez-Entry-Plan-Holyoke-Public-Schools_11.12.2020.pdf).

## Sanchez concludes first half of Applause Series

**AGAWAM** – The Agawam Cultural Council’s Applause Series concludes the first half of its 17th season on Friday, Dec. 4 with the broadcast of a concert recorded specifically for the series by classical guitarist Scott Sanchez. His Bach, Brubeck, Beatles, and Beyond will incorporate classical, jazz, and pop idioms into a varied program sure to please a broad spectrum of music lovers. The concert will be shown on the Town of Agawam’s public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7:00 pm and streamed from the “Watch” button on [www.agawammedia.tv](http://www.agawammedia.tv) for those residing outside of Agawam. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) for a link for the performance.

Originally from Colorado, Sanchez’s playing has been described as “Colorful and poignant” by Soundboard Magazine and “Very engaging, virtuosic and spirited” by David Leisner, Chair of the classical guitar program at the Manhattan School of Music. Sanchez has performed in Europe and throughout North America. His recordings cover a vast repertoire spanning the music of the Baroque era to modern day masterpieces. He has recorded music for the Contemporary Anthology of Solo Guitar Music published by Mel Bay Publications and he regularly arranges and composes for the guitar. His arrangements are available on Sheet Music Plus, a division of Hal Leonard Publications. Sanchez



The 2020 portion of the Agawam Cultural Council’s popular Applause Series concludes on Friday, Dec. 4 with the broadcast of classical guitarist Scott Sanchez’ Bach, Brubeck, Beatles, and Beyond concert on the Town of Agawam’s public access channel at 7 p.m. The performance will also be streamed at that time.

*Submitted photo*

earned his Master of Music at the Yale School of Music and is currently a Lecturer in Music at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire.

Production sponsors for Scott Sanchez – Bach, Brubeck, Beatles,

and Beyond are the Agawam Special Police and Chris and Sue Catjakis. The Agawam Cultural Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and OMG, Inc. for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40 percent of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly “socially distanced” donation to support efforts to “Give Back to the Community” by visiting the ACC web site [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org) and clicking on the green “Donate” button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org). The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

## NAMI support group changes

**REGION** – The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-WM) of Western Massachusetts would like to inform the public that our NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group schedule has changed again due to COVID-19.

- Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Access online with zoom: <https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/955331152>. Access by phone: 1-646-558-8656 (meeting ID: 955 331 152)

- Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Access online with zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/859002245>. Access by phone: 1-929-205-6099 (meeting ID: 859 002 245)

- @home Connection Support Group. First and third Thursday of the month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Access online with zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84883272163>. More information about NAMI Mass @ home: <https://namimass.org/nami-mass-home/>

- Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Access online with zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/621974217>, Access by phone: 1-929-205-6099 (meeting ID: 621 974 217)

A diagnosis is not required to attend any group. Anyone with mental health condition is welcome to attend any group without prior registration. The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts is dedicated to helping improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by mental illness through support, education and advocacy. According to statistics, 1 in 5 Americans will face mental health problems every year.

## UMassFive College Federal Credit Union donates to Food Bank of Western Mass

**HADLEY** – UMassFive College Federal Credit Union is proud to share that it has provided over \$13,500 in donations to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts during 2020. These donations have been facilitated through community giving campaigns in partnership with staff and members of the Credit Union.

Early this year, UMassFive supported the Food Bank of Western MA by donating \$1,000 to help offset the increase in demand presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Credit Union also sponsored and took part in the Food Bank’s annual Will Bike 4 Food event.

A team of 11 UMassFive employees raised money and rode bikes as part of the event, which took place virtually, resulting in donations of \$3,422.

In the interest of supporting the community, UMassFive also encouraged participation from those who bank at the Credit Union. A campaign called “Share Your Story” allowed members to choose a local organization to receive a \$25 donation from UMassFive on their behalf. A total of \$5,000 in donations was split between five local organizations, of which \$1,300 was donated to the Food Bank. Members were also encouraged to redeem their earned buzz

points - a debit card spending reward program - as charitable donations, which year-to-date has contributed the equivalent of \$2,830 in donations to the Food Bank.

UMassFive’s latest endeavor was a “Spend and Give” campaign, which involved a collaboration with its members and credit card servicer, PSCU. During July, 1% of every purchase made on an eligible member’s UMassFive credit card was donated to the Food Bank. Based on member purchases, the Credit Union met its goal of raising \$2,500 and unlocked a matching grant from PSCU, resulting in a \$5,000 overall

donation to the Food Bank. This donation brought UMassFive’s total contribution to the organization so far in 2020 to \$13,552!

“UMassFive has been a dedicated supporter of The Food Bank over the years and has stepped up their support over this challenging year,” said, Jillian Morgan, the food bank corporate relations officer. “UMassFive’s contributions through their various campaigns have raised enough funds to provide over 50,000 meals to neighbors in need! We are grateful for their continued commit-

*See DONATES page 12*



Peotry Croner

## Now today tomorrow – Where are you and them

By Thomas J. Kennedy

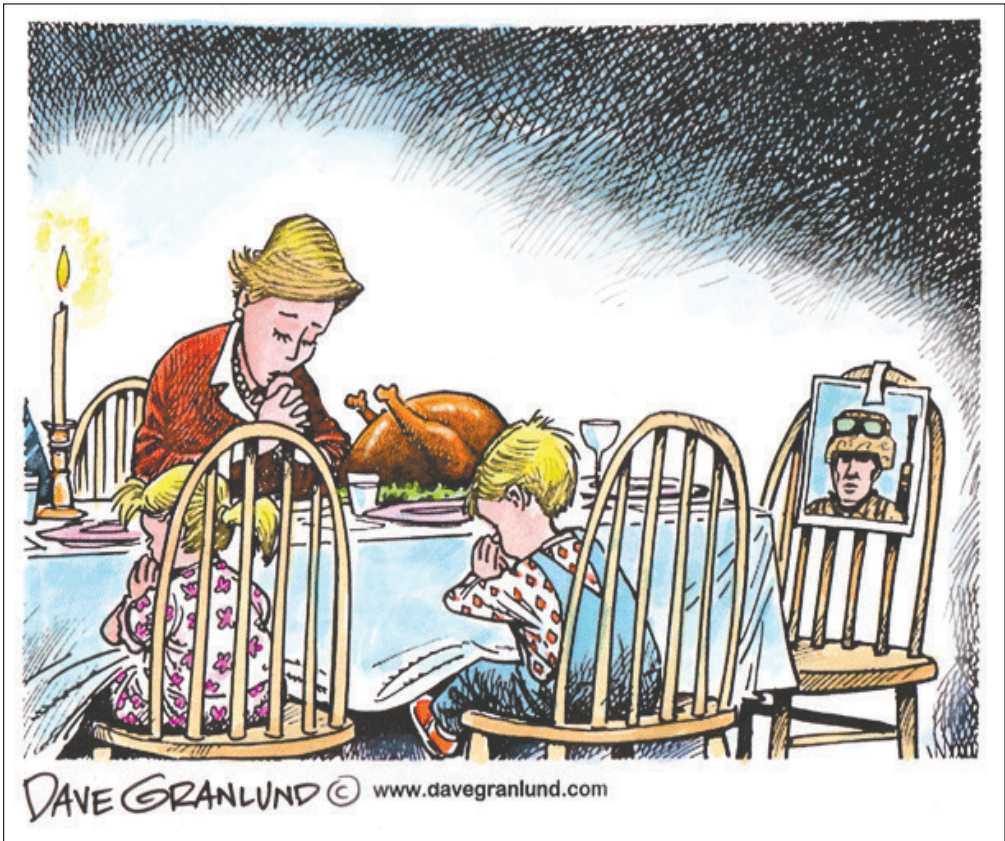
*Does the pendulum  
Lead to the palpable prism  
And does the prism go back  
To the defined rainbow.*

*Can we go back further?  
Than our gratitude in equal dignity  
Our understanding in uniqueness  
And our perceived humility*

*Do we have to kneel to group  
unrighteous pride?  
Quasi positions known but lacking integrity.  
Only to the semi-intellectual  
interpreted with loose strings.  
Say- “I’m only human...  
I guess we’ll have to wait  
Intervention in the Spirit*

*Thank God for God-  
Forget the Medium is the Message.  
2020 - The strangest of years  
It has affected and effected  
our complete life and culture  
Others to- Worldwide- Children, teen,  
young adults, marriage  
Parents, senior citizens education, Health,  
Education, business  
And loss too in socialization . . .  
To over-balance in technology*

*When I see a person looking upset or disturb,  
I want to give them a hug  
I always have. Hope soon to bring back all the  
huggers in kindness.  
Peace, Love and Joy to everyone.  
God, love and love and thank you,  
President J.F.K*



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### Guest Column

## Wishing for winter squash

**Y**ou should never take anything for granted, especially when it comes to the garden’s bounty. While it doesn’t seem possible to have 50 winter squash one year and none just a couple years later, that is the predicament I found myself in this fall. I thought I did everything right! I planted the seeds a day or two shy of Memorial Day in a sunny spot that had been fertilized and composted. The seedlings came up strong. I left a floating row cover over them until they were ready to bust through, preventing cucumber beetles from nibbling when they were most vulnerable. But alas, the drought came and with it a dry well. The plants became stressed. Some developed vine borer and/or powdery mildew. While it looked as if I would still get a harvest, this was just wishful thinking. Not long after setting the few fruits I had on the stone wall to cure, most began to rot. Once I realized that this is the way it was heading I gave the rest to the chickens; at least they got to enjoy them.

Gratefully my mom will provide the coveted butternut squash for Thanksgiving dinner. There is an easy way to prepare it without peeling and chopping! Simply wash the



squash and cut it in half length-wise. Then, scoop out the seeds and bake cut-side down on a greased cookie sheet or in a casserole dish. At 375 degrees, a butternut can take anywhere from 40 minutes to one hour to cook. Test by inserting a fork into the thickest part of flesh; if it goes in easily, it’s done! Scoop out all of the flesh, even the caramelized parts, and mash with a fork or an immersion blender depending on how chunky (or not!) you like it. Season it to taste with cinnamon or better yet, pumpkin pie spice. And if you have a sweet tooth, try adding maple syrup or brown sugar; or even a bit of molasses. A little butter helps too!

Did you know that you can substitute home grown cooked winter squash for any recipe that calls for canned pumpkin, even pumpkin pie? Most folks know that it is squash inside the can anyhow....sweeter and less stringy than their pumpkin cousins. While butternuts are my favorite to grow, I do also like the ‘Delicata’ and ‘Sweet Dumplings’ for taste. They are rich with a depth of flavor. I just wish they were more productive. One plant produces three fruits at the most.

I think I am going to give squash growing

a break for a year. Maybe the borers will go away and I’ll be blessed with a good harvest sometime in the future. It would be really sad to think my squash growing days are over. That makes me think about what I should be grateful for this year, garden-wise. Kale, spinach and the cut flowers come to mind...ah, the flowers. I am especially excited about my growing dahlia collection. It would be fun to trade tubers and share the wealth!

But alas, I digress...Let’s get back on topic. Don’t feel the need to gobble up your butternut squash bounty in a hurry; this type of squash has been known to keep through spring and beyond if stored in a dry, 55-degree location. For me, the mudroom has always worked out well to store my winter squash. My mom, on the other hand, has good luck placing hers in trays off the floor in her basement. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.*

## Questions about registering for Social Security

By Russell Gloor

**D**ear Rusty: I have a big 65th birthday coming up mid-March and would like your advice on registering for Social Security and Medicare. I am now unemployed, but I am seeking another gig to get me to age 67 before taking Social Security. Signed: Wondering Senior

Dear Wondering: You do not need to “register” with Social Security in advance. You don’t need to do anything with Social Security until you are ready to claim your benefits. Since you were born in 1956, your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is 66 plus 4 months, and

that is when you will be entitled to 100% of the benefit you’ve earned from a lifetime of working.

But you can, if you wish, also wait beyond your FRA to get an even bigger benefit. For each month you delay after your FRA you’ll earn Delayed Retirement Credits of .667%, which is 8% additional benefit for each year you wait. That can continue up to age 70 when your maximum benefit will be reached. In your case that would mean an age 70 benefit 29% more than your FRA benefit amount. But whenever you’re ready, you can apply for Social Security online at [www.ssa.gov/retire](http://www.ssa.gov/retire) (you must first create your “My Social Security” account to apply online).

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Medicare is an entirely separate program and, unless you have “creditable” employer healthcare coverage from a new job, you should enroll in Medicare a bit prior to your 65th birthday (“creditable” coverage is a group plan with at least 20 participants). This would be during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), which is a 7-month window starting three months before the month you turn 65 and ending 3 months after the month you turn 65. If you don’t enroll in Medicare during your IEP and enroll later, and if you didn’t have creditable employer healthcare coverage after age 65, you will be subject to a late enrollment penalty, which

See SECURITY, page 13

## A Quote

OF NOTE

*“Anyone  
who has ever  
made anything  
of importance  
was disciplined.”*

**Andrew  
Hendrixson**

## Letters to the Editor Policy

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# Can you really celebrate Thanksgiving safely?

SPRINGFIELD – Think again before you send out those Thanksgiving invites this year.

COVID-19 has so far put a damper on many of our national holidays including Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and now Thanksgiving – one of the few days of the year when families are surrounded by so many loved ones and friends under one roof.

Health experts – from Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s leading infectious disease expert, to Dr. Mark A. Keroack, president and CEO of Baystate Health who trained in infectious diseases and was on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic in Boston – are sounding the alarm about gathering together for Thanksgiving at a time when the country is seeing record-setting COVID-19 cases sweeping the nation.

The big message from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Thanksgiving is to avoid travel, large gatherings, and limiting your alcohol intake, which could cloud your judgement in protecting yourself and others from COVID-19.

Just about everyone has heard the old saying: “Mother knows best.” Well, in the case of Thanksgiving this year, it is “Dr. Fauci knows best” and noted his holiday “is going to look very different this year.”

“I think given the fluid and dynamic nature of what’s going on right now in the spread and the uptick of infections, I think people should be very careful and prudent about social gathering, particularly when members of the family might be at a risk because of their age or their underlying condition. Namely, you may have to bite the bullet and sacrifice that social gathering unless you’re pretty certain that people that you are dealing with are not infected,” Dr. Fauci told Norah O’Donnell in an interview with “CBS Evening News.”

Fauci, 79, whose age puts him at high risk for contracting the virus, noted he would love to have his three children home for Thanksgiving. However, they live in three different states and would have to fly home and use public transportation.

“When you’re talking about relatives



that are getting on a plane, being exposed in an airport, being exposed in a plane, then walk in the door and say ‘Happy Thanksgiving’ – that you have to be careful about,” he told O’Donnell.

Dr. Keroack agrees with Dr. Fauci and noted he is “mindful that the safest thing to do is to have no event or a virtual event.” He offers seven steps to consider “if you decide that the party must go on:”

1. Make a plan how you are going to keep everyone safe.
2. You and those who will be attending the holiday feast should avoid as much contact with others as possible 1-2 weeks before the big day. Partying the Saturday before Thanksgiving can put the holiday gathering at risk. Consider asking everyone, including yourself, to get tested beforehand (within a few days of the event).
3. Consider the amount of virus where the event is being held (red/yellow/green) and also where your guests are coming from.
4. Think about the location. Outside is better than inside, but the colder weather has arrived and it’s not practical to eat outdoors now. When inside, big rooms should be chosen over smaller ones, and consider ventilating the room by cracking a window(s) open. It is well-known that improving ventilation significantly lowers

the amount of time respiratory droplets stay airborne.

5. Think about the people who will be attending. How many? Fewer is better. Are any at high risk such as those who are elderly, obese, and who have diabetes or high blood pressure? Remind people with symptoms that they should stay home (cough, fever, sniffles, etc.).

6. Think about the event itself. How long will it go (shorter is better)? Loud talking or singing can spread virus more effectively. Food service – don’t have a buffet, instead one server wearing gloves should plate the meals for everyone and fill any requests for seconds.

7. Looking back at #1 and your plan, how do you know you will stick to the plan? Think of the important role you play as the host and protector of your guests. ....similar to a “designated driver.”

Still another factor to consider – what about those college students coming home for the holiday?

“We know that many colleges and universities have been hot spots during the fall semester. It is entirely possible that your son or daughter may bring home the coronavirus, many unknowingly since younger people are more likely to be asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic,” said Dr. Armando Paez, chief, Infectious Disease Division, Baystate Medical

Center.

“They should be tested upon arriving home and quarantine until receiving their test results, as hard as that may be on everyone,” he added.

A look at the CDC’s recommendations – in order of risk – to celebrate the holiday include:

- Lower Risk:
- A small dinner with people in your household
  - A virtual dinner with family and friends
  - Watching sports events and parades at home – even the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade is going virtual this year.
- Moderate Risk Activities
- A small outdoor dinner with family and friends who live in your community
  - Small outdoor sports events with safety precaution in place
- Higher Risk Activities
- Attending large indoor gatherings with people from outside of your household
  - Using drugs or alcohol which can cloud your judgement and result in risky behaviors when it comes to protecting yourself and others from COVID-19.

And, retailers may not be happy with this assessment, but the CDC also recommends not going shopping in crowded stores just before, on, or after Thanksgiving, in other words – “Black Friday.”

Whatever way people choose to celebrate Thanksgiving, Dr. Paez reminds everyone to follow some commonsense safety precautions that public health experts have been recommending since the start of the pandemic to keep you and others safe from COVID-19:

- Wear a mask
- Social distance staying at least 6 feet apart from anyone not in your household
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- And don’t go out when feeling sick and avoid contact with those who are sick.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org.

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# SPORTS

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Marcel Guzik makes a pass to Rodrigo Espinoza.

## Boys soccer final action



Prior to play being stopped in Holyoke on Oct. 22, the boys soccer team took on Northampton on Oct. 21. The Knights tied 2-2. Rodrigo Espinoza and Marcus Tenesaca scored the goals for the Knights. Rodrigo Espinoza charges at an opponent and goes for the ball.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Keegan Kukucka kicks the ball away.



Marcus Tenesaca heads down the sideline with the ball.



Timothy Gaughan tries to keep the ball in play.

## Season ends for high school teams

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — The Massachusetts High School fall season wraps up at the end of the week, it could be largely seen as a massive success as many teams were able to play in athletic contests for the first time in more than six months.

High school athletics were forced to shut down indefinitely following the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. For Massachusetts, it occurred during the semifinals of the state basketball tournament and all state semifinal winners were considered co-champions and the state championship games were not played.

Following that, spring sports were delayed a few times, before sports and school

overall, were called off for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, leaving spring athletes graduating with no final season.

With the pandemic still ongoing, but numbers of positive tests dropping to nearly 0.8 percent, high school sports were allowed to resume with modified rules, few fans, and a limited schedule that introduced the concept of bubble play, something that could be considered tough for Western Massachusetts teams, which are used to leagues that are put together based on level of competitiveness in order to maintain balance in most sports.

Most soccer, field hockey, and girls volleyball teams that participated had 10-12 contests scheduled, and for the most part, those contests were played.

Many schools developed a schedule that went from Oct. 1 to about Nov. 6. The final two weeks of the season were reserved for makeup games if schools had to shut down operations or for any other postponements.

While there has been a major spike of cases and several communities went “into the red” under the state metrics measuring coronavirus transmission risks, most schools were able to get most of, if not, their entire seasons played.

There were just a few schools with some remaining games this week, including Pathfinder, Ware, and Palmer. Quabbin, Quaboag, North Brookfield, and Tantasqua also had a few remaining contests

See SEASON, page 10

## Sport-specific guidelines still to come for winter sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — The full Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs updated guidelines were released by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association were released late last week.

The MIAA and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has been working with the EEA obtain guidance and follow protocols in order to get student-athletes back on the field.

In August, the EEA deemed basketball, football, soccer, wrestling, lacrosse, cheerleading, and ice hockey

as high-risk sports.

As a result of that designation, contests in those sports were not allowed, and summer basketball and soccer leagues were completely shut down.

Soccer was able to return during fall sports with major modifications to play, especially a low-level of contact and mask-wearing by all participants.

But it is still unknown exactly what guidelines will be made in order to make basketball and ice hockey playable. As of now, the EEA is allowing Level 3 play, which permits contests between schools, but does not allow for tournaments. The MIAA

See GUIDELINES, page 10



# MASCAC cancels winter sports season for state universities

WESTFIELD – The NCAA has released winter sport guidelines and the state of Massachusetts recently updated their winter sport policies. After an in-depth review of the information from the state and NCAA, consultation among the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Presidents, athletic directors, and athletic trainers and after exhausting all possibilities, including a review of the risks involved, the eight MASCAC Presidents have made the difficult decision to cancel all winter sports competition. This includes the sports of men’s and women’s basketball, men’s ice hockey and men’s

and women’s indoor track and field. Similar to the fall sports, the state universities are planning to provide winter sport student-athletes with on-campus, in-person practices, conditioning and training opportunities throughout their traditional season to support their physical and mental well-being. These practice and training opportunities will not use a year of NCAA Eligibility and will be done in compliance with the campus, state, federal and NCAA COVID guidance and protocols. “The MASCAC Presidents have been continuously observing the pandemic and guidelines from local, state, federal

and NCAA officials which has led us to the decision to cancel winter sports competition during the spring semester,” said Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts President James Birge, Chair of the MASCAC Council of Presidents. Affiliates will be able to schedule nonconference contests at their discretion. “We explored countless scenarios to find a safe path forward with the evolving recommendations and policies from the NCAA and the state for our winter sport student-athletes,” said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. “After consultation with our medical staff

and athletic directors, the MASCAC Presidents came to the conclusion there is not a way to ensure the safety of our student-athletes and staff with off campus winter competition, the risks are far too great.” Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the MASCAC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with special features, facts and trivia commemorating the event. Our conference has a rich history of success on the playing field and in the classroom. Over the academic year, the conference will be highlighting the student-athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators from the last 50 years.

## SEASON, from page 9

to play this week after some Central Mass. teams had to shut down their play. Athletes persevered through the modification of play. More than anything, they had to get used to ramping up to heavy running while wearing masks, a rule that had to be enforced strictly due to the insistence of local health directors in order to control communities from any major spreads. While there have been major outbreaks the state government has attributed house parties, there were not any known cases of major outbreaks among high school sports teams. There were some isolated cases and games

postponed due to contact tracing leading to some quarantining, but no major sickness among the teams. The season was also made very successful by a coordinated effort among athletic directors to have proper protocols in place and staff to help enforce mask-wearing and social distancing. Soccer and girls volleyball had extra staff used to clean and sanitize game balls. Girls volleyball cycled in new balls on every play. The season unfortunately concluded without any tournaments for the first time in years. This would have been the final year for state-sanctioned sectional tournaments. The state is still scheduled to go to a statewide tournament format next fall, when hopefully a full, normal season will be played.

## GUIDELINES, from page 9

officially cancelled the winter tournaments recently and the season is supposed to end on Feb. 21, 2020. Basketball and hockey both involve sustained high contact. In the case of basketball, there is also a lot of sweating that spreads between players through close contact and the basketball itself. During the fall season, girls volleyball, the only indoor sport played during the season, rotated a new volleyball before each play. That may not be feasible in the faster moving game of basketball. Wrestling will not be allowed to compete in school-to-school competition but will be allowed to practice. There can be some intrasquad contests among individual teams, but no other competitions will be allowed at this time. It is unknown if wrestling could take place in the bubble season, as football will be the prevalent sport during that season and many wrestlers also play football. Football is still scheduled to take

place in late February through mid-April in what is being called “Fall 2” or a bubble season. Football and cheerleading are both supposed to take place in that season. With talks of a vaccine now emerging during the past week, it is very possible that there could be modifications to each sports as the vaccine becomes more widely available and individuals are vaccinated for COVID-19. The EEA is mandating face coverings for all sports with the exception of swimming. Swimming is also supposed to be able to take place, but with modifications made to limit the number of participants in a pool area. The PVIAC only allowed home fans at outdoor contests during the fall with some schools allowing no fans at all for various reasons, including the ability to control attendance. A few schools allowed one guest per home athlete in volleyball, while most did not allow any fans. It is unknown whether any fans will be permitted at basketball and hockey contests.



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*Season's Greetings*  
 KINDLY NOTE OUR HOLIDAY HOURS

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**THANKSGIVING**  
 THURSDAY 11/26 & FRIDAY 11/27  
**CLOSED**


**CHRISTMAS**  
 FRIDAY 12/25 & SATURDAY 12/26  
**CLOSED**

<b>THURSDAY</b> DECEMBER 24 <sup>th</sup> <b>OPEN UNTIL 12PM</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b> DECEMBER 31 <sup>st</sup> <b>OPEN UNTIL 4PM</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> JANUARY 1 <sup>st</sup> <b>CLOSED</b>
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Help feature student-athletes on the sports pages in The Holyoke Sun

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action. But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes, especially those who are seniors this year. We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in. We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere. If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us. Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

Additionally, with the various senior games that have been held already or are still waiting to be held, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall 1 sports. We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

Tryouts wrapping up for Western United Pioneers

LUDLOW – WUP FC is excited to hold WINTER TRYOUTS for the 2020-2021 season. Tryouts are for Boys and Girls of all age groups (2012 - 2002 birth years). An open house for younger ages can be scheduled upon request. Developmental Academy: players born in 2013-2015

**First Kick: players born in 2016**

Tryouts remaining will be held Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 at Lusitano and Ana Dias Middle fields. There are

various tryout times for age groups and more information can be found at [www.westernunitedpioneers.com](http://www.westernunitedpioneers.com). This registration session will allow you to complete contact information, and sign up for participation. Please read through each page carefully to ensure that all information is provided accurately. We want to create the safest environment for your player due to COVID-19. Each player should bring water, a ball, shin guards, and wear a mask.



Happy Thanksgiving

**EARLY DEADLINE**

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**THE HOLYOKE SUN**

Advertising Deadline will be **Fri., Nov. 20, Noon** for the Friday, Nov. 27 edition

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*Early Deadlines*

**FOR ALL PUBLIC NOTICES**  
to run the week of November 23-27, 2020

- **Wednesday, November 18 at NOON** for The Register, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Agawam Advertiser News and Sentinel
- **Thursday, November 19 at NOON** for Barre Gazette, Quaboag Current, Country Journal, The Journal Register and Ware River News
- **Friday, November 20 at NOON** for Town Reminder, The Holyoke Sun and Chicopee Register

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Autonomic nervous system

4. At or near the stern

7. Adenosine triphosphate

10. Polynesian garland of flowers

11. Chinese revolutionary

12. Green veggie

13. Large group

15. Swiss river

16. Semiaquatic mammal

19. Wrongdoers

21. Home to Disney World

23. Spanish doctors

24. Newborn child

25. Absence of difficulty

26. Large, stocky lizard

27. Earned top billing

30. A long wandering

and eventful journey

34. Water (French)

35. Brew

36. Winged horse

41. A usually malignant tumor

45. Alfred \_\_, American actor

46. Austrian river

47. A reminder of past events

50. Connected with

54. Status

55. Dean residence

56. Egyptian city

57. Boxing's GOAT

59. Straits along the Red Sea

60. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan

61. Get some color

62. Facilitates hearing

63. Commercials

64. A team's best pitcher

65. Patti Hearst's captors

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Speak up

2. More informative

3. Where passengers sit

4. Gathered

5. Supervises flying

6. Home of the Blue Jays

7. Public statement of regret

8. Lockjaw

9. Indian city

13. Patriots' Newton

14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

17. Sun up in New York

18. Eggs in female fish

20. Stood up

22. NBA legend Willis

27. Calendar month (abbr.)

28. Exercise regimen \_\_-bo

29. The 8th month (abbr.)

31. \_\_ Paulo, city

32. Tall deciduous tree

33. Affirmative

37. Notified of danger

38. NFL game days

39. Archaic term for "to"

40. Plant pores

41. Canned fish

42. Phil \_\_, former CIA

43. Connects with

44. Of the skull

47. Time zone (abbr.)

48. When you hope to get there

49. Hindu goddess

51. Land

52. Pitching stat

53. Field force unit

58. Lakers' crosstown rivals

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 13







SECURITY, from page 6

will permanently increase your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premiums.

Medicare Part B is coverage for doctors and outpatient services, and Part D is prescription drug coverage, both of which require a premium; Medicare Part A is hospitalization coverage which is free if you're eligible for Social Security. If you have "credible" employer coverage when you turn 65, you can simply delay enrolling

in Medicare Part B until your employer coverage is about to end, or until after it ends during an eight-month Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare Part B without penalty. But for Part D prescription drug coverage, you must enroll in a private plan within 63 days of your 65th birthday, or the end of your employer drug coverage, or you will incur a Part D late enrollment penalty for enrolling later. And remember that Medicare late enrollment penalties never go away – they are

recurring for the rest of your life.

The bottom line is this: you don't need to pre-register for either Social Security or Medicare. You can simply enroll when you are ready for benefits to start (keeping in mind that for Medicare, you must have "credible" alternative coverage after age 65 to avoid late enrollment penalties).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of

the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit the AMAC website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email AMAC at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF HOLYOKE  
GAS & ELECTRIC  
DEPARTMENT  
ELECTRIC UNDERGROUND  
CABLE - 500 MCM EPR CU  
CONDUCTOR

Sealed bids for the above named contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until 2:00 p.m., December 3, 2020 at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong  
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.  
99 Suffolk St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
cwong@hged.com  
(413) 335-0148

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be for the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes "Bid for Electric Underground Cable - 500 MCM EPR CU Conductor" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager  
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.  
99 Suffolk St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040

11/20/2020

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Request for Qualifications  
for Construction  
Management at Risk  
Services  
Mass. State Project No.  
HLY2102  
Holyoke Soldiers' Home –  
Renovation/Replacement  
Holyoke, MA

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through its Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM), requests that qualified and experienced firms submit a Statement of

Qualification and required information to be received through DCAMM's E-Bid Room at www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/home no later than 2:00 PM, December 10, 2020.

Firms interested in providing Public Construction Manager at Risk Services ("CM" or "CM at Risk") for the Holyoke Soldiers' Home – Renovation/Replacement, Holyoke, MA, are invited to submit a Statement of Qualifications ("SOQ") to the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance ("DCAMM"). This CM at Risk procurement is conducted pursuant to M.G.L. 149A, contained in Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2004. This Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") is the first phase of a two-phase procurement process as set forth in M.G.L. 149A. DCAMM is prequalifying firms interested in providing public CM at Risk services for the project through the RFQ process. DCAMM will evaluate submitted SOQs based upon the identified evaluation criteria as set forth in the RFQ and will select those respondents it deems qualified. Only those respondents deemed qualified will be invited to submit a proposal in response to a detailed Request for Proposals ("RFP"), which will be issued in the second phase of the procurement process. The project delivery method for construction will be public CM at Risk with a Guaranteed Maximum Price ("GMP") under M.G.L. 149A.

In addition, firms interested in being prequalified must demonstrate that they have had prior experience as a Construction Manager on at least three CM-at-Risk projects and have completed at least one project of a similar cost, complexity, type and size as this project as it is described further below and in the RFQ. The prior CM-at-Risk projects must have been completed within the last ten (10) years.

At the time a CM firm submits the Qualifications Statement, it must have a DCAMM Certification in the

Contractor Category, "General Building Construction", with a single limit greater than the Estimated Total Project cost of \$190,000,000. See www.mass.gov/dcam/certification for certification forms and the required Update Form.

This Project is the replacement of an existing long-term care facility for U.S. military veterans. The new replacement facility will likely be a new building of approximately 320,500 sq. ft., or a combination of new construction and extensive renovation of the existing facility, constructed in 1952, which is approximately 227,915 sq. ft. The new building is anticipated to incorporate robust energy conservation, water conservation, operational resilience, and indoor air quality features. If not re-used, the existing building will be abated for hazardous materials and demolished.

The Request for Qualifications may be downloaded from http://www.commbuys.com or DCAMM's E Bid Room at https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/10279/home on or after Thursday, November 19, 2020. Instructions on the E-Bid Room processes can be found on DCAMM's website www.mass.gov/dcam/bids or contact DCAMM's Bid Room at (617) 727-4003 or bidroom.dcam@mass.gov.

Carol W. Gladstone  
Commissioner

11/20/2020

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD20P1929EA  
Estate of:  
Frieda Nelson  
Also known as:  
Frieda Sylvia Nelson  
Date of Death: 11/05/2017  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Late and  
Limited Formal Testacy  
and/or Appointment has

been filed by Stephen N Rosenbush of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Stephen N Rosenbush of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/03/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION UNDER  
THE MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE  
(MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 05, 2020  
Suzanne T. Seguin  
Register of Probate

11/20/2020

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

(413)748-8600  
Docket No. HD20P-0215EA  
Estate of:  
Gerald E Tessier  
Also Known As:  
Gerald Edward Tessier  
Date of Death:  
Decernber16, 2019  
NOTICE OF INFORMAL  
PROBATE  
G.L. c. 190B, § 3-306

To all persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Veterans Affairs, notice is hereby given on 11/16/2020 Kathleen M Tessier of Holyoke, MA intends to file with the above-named Probate and Family Court, not sooner than seven (7) days after this notice, a Petition for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative, to serve without surety on the bond Kathleen M Tessier of Holyoke, MA

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 11/20/2020

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD20P0734EA  
Estate of:  
Leon Mitchell

Date of Death: 08/23/2019  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for S/A - Public Administration has been filed by Michael J Chernick of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Michael J Chernick of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/15/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION UNDER  
THE MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE  
(MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 10, 2020  
Suzanne T. Seguin  
Register of Probate

11/20/2020

PUBLIC NOTICES  
ARE NOW ONLINE

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon,  
Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



The Sun  
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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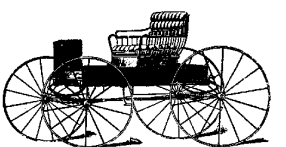
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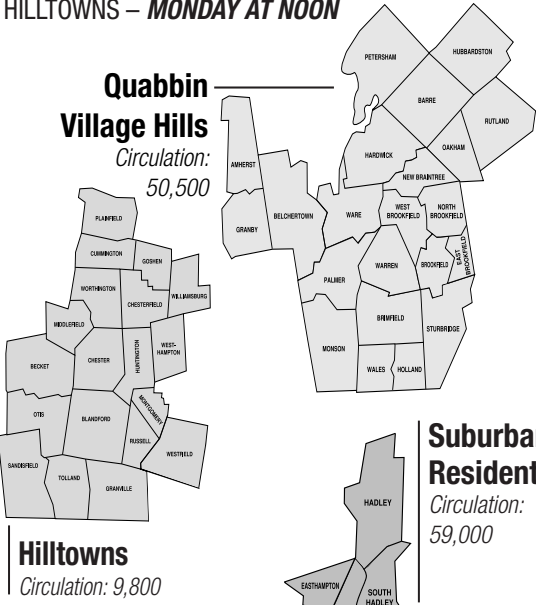
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## SANTA, from page 1

Recently, a petition was launched by Santa's elves demanding he starts Christmas early this year. CHP, which has brought Santa to children and families across the U.S. for 60 years, decided to get the latest HD video call technology to the North Pole to allow Santa a safe way to visit families across the world while simultaneously adhering to proper social distancing guidelines. Beginning on Nov. 6, 2020, Santa can connect with children and families all over via personalized Zoom video calls, arranged through CHP, as part of its 2020 "Holiday Magic Traditions" package.

This V.I.P. package also includes a premium Holiday Traditions Gift Box, unlimited access to My Photo with Santa, unlimited access to create Pet Photos with Santa, on-demand video Story Time with Santa, a letter from Mrs. Claus and her secret cookie recipe kit, and much more. Additional, lower-tiered, experience packages are also available for purchase starting at \$9.99. CHP also offers two free trials this year, guests have access to try My Photo with Santa and Pet Photo with Santa for free or upgrade to a premium license for unlimited photo uploads and downloads along with access to a full library of adorable holiday backgrounds, frames and stickers. Both are available to share across social media and are printable at no extra cost. All packages are currently available to purchase via createholidaymagic.com.

"At Cherry Hill Programs, we won't let the circumstances of the

COVID-19 pandemic stop Christmas for millions of families nationwide or stand in the way of their traditions," said Matt Windt, chief marketing officer at Cherry Hill Programs. "So, we've been working incredibly hard to create the same magical, and memorable holiday experience with Santa that consumers are accustomed to getting from CHP. 'Create Holiday Magic' gives families security and comfort in knowing they can still provide their children with a more than memorable Christmas that will keep its magic alive for them. In addition to the opportunity to visit Santa in-person at 700 shopping centers and malls this year, Create Holiday Magic is a virtual option to ensure every family that wants to visit Santa is able to enjoy the tradition."

With more than 10,000 bookable hours and over 1,300 Santas available for personal and customized online experiences, grandparents who still have yet to meet their newborn grandchildren and will likely miss their first Christmas, as well as parents, sons, and daughters who haven't seen each other in seven months but won't get on a plane for fear of COVID-19, will not only be able to connect as best they can, but will also have everything they need to create one of the happiest and most memorable Christmas they'll ever have. Through this first of its kind program, CHP is making sure this pandemic does not get in the way of holding on to family holiday traditions.

CHP's holiday packages are available through Dec. 24, 2020, and can be scheduled in fifteen-minute increments, seven days a week, from 9 a.m. until 9:45 p.m. EST.

## PLAY, from page 2

It became a play about life, about our lives. I think there's lots that will resonate because the characters are in kind of the same situation that many of us are in today, working remotely from home."

Each performance will include both live and prerecorded elements. Cochran and Missildine spent two days videotaping fancifully costumed actors performing anime-style fight moves against a green screen set up on the stage of HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater. These character represent the virtual "daemons," avatars with names like Toro, Unicornio, Haruspex, Aurora, Pandamime, and Fatale, who battle in the context of the Fatal Fisticuffs game.

The fight sequences will be interwoven with live video feeds from the homes of the 13 "real" characters, HCC students and alumni acting in front of their own green screens. In real time, Cochran and Missildine will plug in the "sets" behind them and bring all of the disparate audio and video elements together using an online platform called O.B.S. – Open

Broadcaster Software – which is used by professionals who stream themselves playing videogames online.

Cochran said the audience experience will be something much different than attending a meeting on Zoom.

"It's the most tech heavy production I've ever worked on, and we've had a whole new set of things to learn," said Cochran. "It's really been enjoyable to watch the discoveries happen. You start thinking, maybe this can be something different. I think after people spend all day on Zoom, they don't want to relax by watching another Zoom. We just get zoomed out. So, if we can create something that's not looking like Zoom, that has sort of a digital theater feel, then we'll have moved the needle a little bit on what can happen in a – quote, unquote – live performance space."

Despite the technological challenges, it's a model he thinks has potential to create a new kind of theater that can't be shut down.

"If we know anything about theater it's that it's endured," he said. "Theater endures because we have a need as people to connect."

## LEARNING, from page 1

teachers and staff in the remote setting and the community-based organizations provide supervision and facilitation support. We are collecting applications for the waitlist, since we have been able to offer a seat to nearly everyone who applied in the first round. Apply now to be on the waitlist.

The pods have begun, and we have funding to continue at least through January. Learning pods have up to 13

students, supported by 2 staff members. They operate during typical school hours, 5 days a week. All health and safety guidelines will be followed, including wearing face coverings/masks, physical distancing, frequent hand washing, enhanced cleaning, and staying home when sick. Transportation will not be provided because families need to drop their child off at the host organization in order to comply with a wellness check, a requirement of the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

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